# NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Route 34 over the Former Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad Project Wall Township, Monmouth County Public Information Center Wednesday, August 26, 2015, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), committed to developing transportation improvements that best balance transportation needs, the environment, community concerns and cost, will hold a **Public Information Center** to inform local residents, public officials and the business community about the **Route 34 over the Former Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad Project located in Wall Township, Monmouth County**. You are encouraged to actively participate by providing comments at the meeting, by mail or by e-mail.

# The Meeting:

The Public Information Center will be held at the Wall Township Municipal Building, Lower Level Conference Room, 2700 Allaire Road, Wall on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Please come at a time that is convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits of the proposed project, ask questions and discuss issues with representatives of NJDOT.

# **Background:**

This project has two primary purposes: 1) replace the existing bridge that crosses over the former Freehold and Jamesburg Railroad corridor, now used for the 5.5-mile paved Edgar Felix Memorial Bikeway and 2) to correct the geometric deficiencies of the bridge approach roadways. The existing bridge, constructed in 1935, is a three-span concrete encased steel beam structure. The existing bridge is rated in "Fair" condition and deemed "Structurally Deficient" due to the deficient existing lane and shoulder widths. The structure provides two 10-foot wide lanes with 2-foot wide inner and outer shoulders and a 6-foot wide sidewalk in each direction separated by a 6-foot wide raised concrete median. The approach roadways are comprised of 10-foot to 11-foot wide outer shoulders, 10-foot to 12-foot wide lanes and a 26-foot wide inner shoulder and grass raised center median. The 26-foot wide grass median narrows to meet the 6-foot wide raised concrete median on the bridge. The vertical crest curve which extends across the existing structure is deficient and creates a substandard stopping sight distance hazard.

## **The Proposed Project:**

To address the purpose and need of the project, Route 34 will be widened and reconstructed for a length of 2000 feet centered about the bridge to provide for four 12-foot wide lanes (two in each direction), 10-foot outer shoulders or a 15-foot wide auxiliary lane from the Atlantic Avenue Interchange, along with a 26-foot wide grass median which includes 3-foot wide inner shoulders. The profile of the roadway will be lowered by 2.35 feet across the structure to satisfy the minimum stopping sight distance and reduce the length and height of the proposed retaining walls. The existing three-span bridge will be replaced with a 24-foot wide rigid frame structure spanning over the existing bikeway. Lighting of the bikeway path within the proposed structure will be provided. However, temporary and permanent right of way will be needed in and around the bridge. There will be limited impacts to the driveways near the bridge replacement.

#### **Environmental Information:**

Federal regulations require the NJDOT to take into account the effect of proposed projects upon historic resources listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, referred to as the "Section 106 Process". Historic preservation organizations, historical societies, and similar groups in the project area are encouraged to attend. A preliminary cultural resource screening has been completed for the project area. No cultural resources have been identified at this time. A more detailed identification and evaluation will be performed as the project progresses.

### **Estimated Status:**

This project is in the Preliminary Design phase. Construction is estimated to cost \$9.3 million and is expected to begin in Spring 2018.

## For more information, please contact:

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